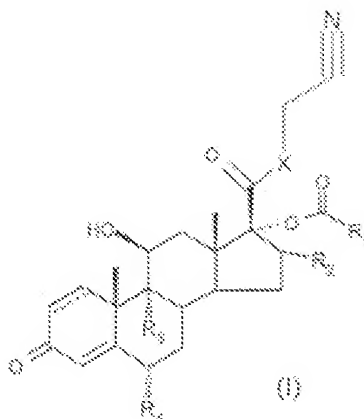


**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I):



wherein


X represents O or S;

R<sub>1</sub> represents C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkylmethyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkenyl any of which optionally may be substituted by one or more methyl groups or halogen atoms or

R<sub>3</sub> represents aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl or substituted heteroaryl;

R<sub>2</sub> represents hydrogen, methyl, which may be in either the  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  configuration, or methylene;


R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are the same or different and each independently represents hydrogen, halogen or a methyl group;

and  represents a single or a double bond;  
or a physiologically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein X represents O.
3. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> represents a C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl group optionally substituted by one or more methyl or chlorine groups.
4. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> represents 2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl.

5. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R<sub>2</sub> represents methyl in the α-configuration.

6. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are both fluorine.

7. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein  represents a double bond.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 which is

6α,9α-Difluoro-11β-hydroxy-16α-methyl-3-oxo-17α-(2,2,3,3-tetramethycyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-androsta-1,4-diene-17β-carbothioic acid S-cyanomethyl ester;

17α-(4-[(Diethylamino)sulphonyl]benzoyl)oxy-6α,9α-difluoro-11β-hydroxy-16α-methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17β-carbothioic acid S-cyanomethyl ester;

17α-(5-Chloro-4-methoxy-thiophene-3-carbonyl)oxy-6α,9α-difluoro-11β-hydroxy-16α-methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17β-carbothioic acid S-cyanomethyl ester;

6α,9α-Difluoro-11β-hydroxy-16α-methyl-3-oxo-17α-(2,2,3,3-tetramethycyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-androsta-1,4-diene-17β-carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

17α-(Cyclohexylcarbonyl)oxy-6α,9α-difluoro-11β-hydroxy-16α-methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17β-carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

6α,9α-Difluoro-17α-(2,6-difluorobenzoyl)oxy-11β-hydroxy-16α-methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17β-carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-17 $\alpha$ -(4-methoxybenzoyl)oxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

17 $\alpha$ -(4-Cyanobenzoyl)oxy-6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

17 $\alpha$ -(Cyclopentylmethylcarbonyl)oxy-6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-17 $\alpha$ -(3,3-dimethylbutanoyl)oxy-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-17 $\alpha$ -(2-isopropyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carbonyl)oxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -(quinoline-2-carbonyl)oxy-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -(5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2-carbonyl)oxy-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl -17 $\alpha$ -(5-methylsulphonyl-thiophene-2-carbonyl)oxy-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl -17 $\alpha$ -(5-methylthio-thiophene-2-carbonyl)oxy-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-17 $\alpha$ -(5-ethyl-isoxazole-3-carbonyl)oxy-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

9 $\alpha$ -Fluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\beta$ -methyl-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester-;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-androst-4-ene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

17 $\alpha$ -(5-Chloro-4-methoxy-thiophene-3-carbonyl)oxy-6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

17 $\alpha$ -(2,2-Dichloro-3,3-dimethylcyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

17 $\alpha$ -(2,2-Dichloro-3,3-dimethylcyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carbothioic acid S-cyanomethyl ester;

17 $\alpha$ -(Cyclohexylcarbonyl)oxy-6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carbothioic acid S-cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-17 $\alpha$ -(5-methylsulphonyl-thiophene-2-carbonyl)oxy-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carbothioic acid S- cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -(5-trifluoromethyl-furan-2-carbonyl)oxy-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carbothioic acid S-cyanomethyl ester; or

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-17 $\alpha$ -(3-(difluoromethylthio)benzoyl)oxy-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carbothioic acid S-cyanomethyl ester.

9. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 8 which is

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carbothioic acid *S*-cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

9 $\alpha$ -Fluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\beta$ -methyl-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

17 $\alpha$ -(Cyclohexylcarbonyl)oxy-6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

17 $\alpha$ -(Cyclopentylmethylcarbonyl)oxy-6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-17 $\alpha$ -(3,3-dimethylbutanoyl)oxy-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-17 $\alpha$ -(3-(difluoromethylthio)benzoyl)oxy-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carbothioic acid *S*-cyanomethyl ester;

17 $\alpha$ -(Cyclohexylcarbonyl)oxy-6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carbothioic acid *S*-cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-17 $\alpha$ -(5-ethyl-isoxazole-3-carbonyl)oxy-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-17 $\alpha$ -(5-methylthio-thiophene-2-carbonyl)oxy-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-17 $\alpha$ -(2-isopropyl-1,3-thiazole-4-carbonyl)oxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

17 $\alpha$ -(2,2-Dichloro-3,3-dimethylcyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carbothioic acid S-cyanomethyl ester; or

17 $\alpha$ -(2,2-Dichloro-3,3-dimethylcyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester.

10. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 9 which is

17 $\alpha$ -(2,2-Dichloro-3,3-dimethylcyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester;

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carbothioic acid S-cyanomethyl ester; or

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester

11. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 10 which is

6 $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ -Difluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16 $\alpha$ -methyl-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropylcarbonyl)oxy-androsta-1,4-diene-17 $\beta$ -carboxylic acid cyanomethyl ester.

12. (Previously presented) A compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or a physiologically acceptable solvate thereof for use in veterinary or human medicine.

13. (Previously presented) Use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or a physiologically acceptable solvate thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of inflammatory and/or allergic conditions.

14. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or a physiologically acceptable solvate thereof together, if desirable, in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable diluents or carriers.

15. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical aerosol formulation comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or a physiologically acceptable solvate thereof, and a fluorocarbon or hydrogen-containing chlorofluoro carbon as propellant, optionally in combination with a surfactant and/or a cosolvent.

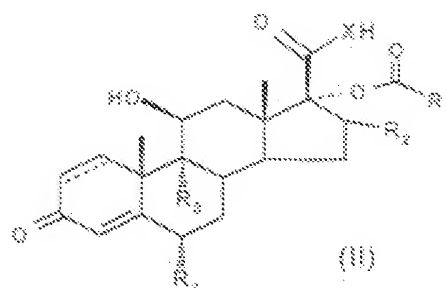
16. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 15 which further comprises another therapeutically active agent.

17. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 in which said another therapeutically active agent is a  $\beta_2$ -adrenoreceptor agonist.

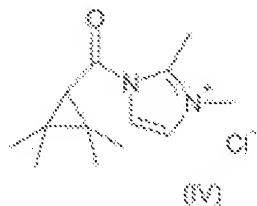
18. (Previously presented) A method for the treatment of a human or animal subject with an anti-inflammatory and/or allergic condition, which method comprises administering to said human or animal subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or a physiologically acceptable solvate thereof.

19-20. (Cancelled)

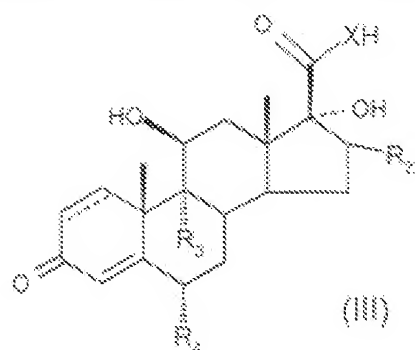
21. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula (II)



where  $R_1$  represents 2,2,3,3-tetramethyl cyclopropyl and  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ , X and  $\text{---}$  are as defined in claim 1 which process comprises reaction of the 1,2-dimethyl-1H-imidazolium ester of 2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropane carboxylic acid (IV)



with the corresponding 17 $\alpha$ -hydroxyl derivative of formula (III)



22. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 21 in which X represents O.